

2019-2020

Report 1

faculty/college	Faculty of filology
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Spanish language and culture

destination city & country	Salamanca, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	Airplane
name university abroad	Universidad de Salamanca
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	You will need to fill in a lot of forms: the study plan, OV reisvoorziening, the ERV mobility insurance, erasmus application form, learning agreement (and possibly the mobility part if you want to change some of your courses), the certificate of attendance and at last the UU report. Most of these can be done before your arrival. For help the international office was always very quick with responding. The University of Salamanca (USAL) takes a little bit more time, but was fairly quick.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I went to the obligatory meetings of the University. In case of any doubt I send an email to the International Office of Utrecht.
academic preparation	Because I study spanish language and culture I had done a few courses before that were similar to the courses I took in Salamanca. However, this is not compulsory. Furthermore, I had no academic preparation.
language preparation	Because I study spanish language and culture, I already had spanish classes and a good knowledge of Spanish. The contact with USAL is only in spanish, so a good knowledge of Spanish was required.
finances	Savings, erasmus grant, OV reisvergoeding and help from parents

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Because of the contract the UU has with USAL, I had to do at least 60% of my courses at the faculty of filology. I choose to do: Segunda lengua 1 Portugués, Literatura española del siglo XX, Literatura hispanoamericana época colonial, Sistemas políticos de Europa and Sistemas políticos de América Latina. The study plan I made on beforehand had to be changed almost completely. Usually the schedules are not known yet when you make your studyplan, therefore a lot of the courses I wanted to take overlapped. Because of this I had to change almost every single one of them.

<p>The system of making your schedule and choosing your courses is very different at USAL. When you arrive you have around 2 weeks (sometimes even 3 weeks, they don't really care) to follow random courses to try them and see if you like them. After this you make an personal appointment with the 'secretaria' to have you scheduled in so you can get acces to Studium (the online platform). I got scheduled in eventually in the first week of oktober, it can take quite long because of the great amount of international students. If you made any changes to your learning agreement, make sure to let the exam committee check your new courses and make your changes by the use of the mobility part.</p>
<p>academic quality of education activities</p>
<p>The acadamic quality of USAL was lower than that of the UU. Take into account that the education is very different as well. Usually the professors spend a lot of time talking and you will be a lot of time listening. Attending the classes is always your own responsibility, usually they don't care. Depending on the courses you take a lot of exams will be relatively easy set up: multiple choice exams, responding to simple questions and writing down everything you know, responding to online questions, writing papers or giving a presentation. For the writing of papers you sometimes get a lot of liberty and you can sometimes just write about any topic in the course you want.</p> <p>The university is very well known for the faculty of filología. So everything that has to do with language and literature will be very interesting to do here.</p> <p>All my teachers have been incredibly helpful during the course! They were always open to any questions and they try to help you as good as possible.</p>
<p>counselling & support at receiving university abroad</p>
<p>The people are always very helpful and they try to help you out in Spanish as good as possible, they bairly speak any english though. Take into account that they usually don't respond to emails, so it's always better to just stop by during their opening hours in the morning (09:00-14:00).</p> <p>We had an general information meeting after a week, the information given was very confusing. I would recommend to just try the classes and start looking for courses you like before you have the meeting.</p>
<p>transfer of credits</p>
<p>Has not happened yet.</p>

STUDENT LIFE

<p>welcome & orientation programme</p>
<p>From the university there is almost no welcome or orientation programme. Sometimes there are studentorganizations who organize moments to meet up and eat some tapas for example (usually they announce this before classes in the beginning. What was very helpful for me was to join the Erasmus facebookgroup, here they announce any party's or other moments to meet other erasmus students. Especially the first few weeks there is something to do almost everyday and I got to know a huge amount of people. Besides this the studentorganization ESN can be very helpful. They organize a lot of moments to get to know other students and they even have a big whatsappgroup for people who want to do sports (like football).</p>
<p>accommodation</p>
<p>Accommodation has never been an issue. One of the easiest things to fix at the beginning of your stay. Prices are usually around 250 euros. I used a site called idealista (where I found a room within a day). What can also help is to go to a hostel first and get to know people so you can search for a room together, this way you ensure you have nice roommates.</p>
<p>leisure & culture</p>
<p>There are a lot bars and a few clubs where you can go to. Especially thursdays and saturdays are very busy days to go out, but if you want to you can go to a lot of nice places every single day. Besides this there is a huge</p>

Salamanca – Universidad de Salamanca

amount of tapas bars and good restaurants. The city centre is absolutely beautiful and there is a lot of history to be discovered (the university was founded in 1218!).

Also the university owns a huge sporting area, where you can practice almost every single sport if you want to.

suggestions/tips

Try to do as much as possible the first two months, after this people start to have exams or they need to hand in papers. So then it is very nice to already know a lot of people.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would highly recommend to go to this university. At the beginning of your stay everything will seem quite chaotic, but that is just the way it goes at USAL. Don't let this go in the way of going to this university. People at USAL are a lot more laid back compared to the UU, so for some people it just takes some time to adapt to this new culture. It's important to really choose courses you like (and it helps a lot if the teacher is nice).

The city itself is absolutely beautiful and the nightlife is amazing! Besides this the people are very warm en welcoming. I made a lot of friends in Spain and all over the world of which I'm sure I will see again.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't let a language barrier or strange environment come in the way of this amazing experience! (some people I met barely spoke any spanish and In the end they were able to make all the exams in Spanish and were able to interact with other Spanish people as well)

Report 2

permission to publish contact details	<i>optional; only if you allow students preparing for study abroad to contact you (directly)</i>
	my e-mail address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: t.k.l.m.babete@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Spaanse taal en cultuur

destination city & country	Salamanca, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane and bus
name university abroad	Universidad de Salamanca
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It was quite easy since the entire application process could be done on Osiris. Just keep in mind the deadlines.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

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I attended a preliminary departure session at the UU for Erasmus students in which former Erasmus students explained us what to expect.
academic preparation
One of my Spanish teachers helped me with the preliminary study plan. I knew what kind of courses I could choose from.
language preparation
I study Spanish so I didn't need a lot of preparation.
finances
I started saving up money a few months before my Erasmus period. Besides that, I received the Erasmus and OV (a public transport card Dutch students receive) grant.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)
When I arrived in Salamanca, I had to make my own time table with courses I wanted to do. This was very chaotic because there was a trial period of 2 weeks in which we could try all of the courses on our faculty. After those 2 weeks, we had to choose the courses from a very long list. You have to make sure that there is no overlap, because that's very inconvenient.
academic quality of education activities
Some courses were quite hard, but others were very easy. I'd say that the courses I took at the UU were way harder than the ones at the USAL.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The secretary was willing to answer all of your questions when we just arrived, you could just make an appointment.
transfer of credits
I haven't received the Transcript of Records yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was a buddy program, so you could get to know a Spanish student. The Spanish student would show you the city and provide you with relevant information.
accommodation
I found my apartment on idealista.es. Just call as many landlords as you can.
leisure & culture
Salamanca has a lot to offer. You can visit cathedrals, towers, play football with many other students, do language exchanges and go out (there are many clubs).
suggestions/tips
Get to know people from different countries, travel, enjoy and don't forget to study.

CONCLUSIONS

Salamanca – Universidad de Salamanca

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes. It's a small city with cheap food and drinks. There are many international students and the city centre is simply beautiful. Rooms aren't as expensive as in Utrecht. It's easy to go to Portugal if you study in Salamanca, and Madrid isn't that faraway either.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Watch out with scammers if you are looking for a room online! It's better to start looking for a room once you have arrived, so that you can see what you get with your own eyes.

Report 3

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Geschiedenis

destination city & country	Salamanca, Spain
how did you travel to your destination?	By plain
name university abroad	USAL
start date	01 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	03 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
Clear process with deadlines	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
A lot of presentacions	
academic preparation	
we didn't prepare us that much	
language preparation	
I took spanish courses to improve my spanish	
finances	
The Erasmus Grant covered my rent	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
The USAL offers a wide variety of courses. You can switch the first weeks between classes and due to the fact that a lot of courses have overlapping hours it is quite some work the first weeks to choose courses so that you can go to all the classes.	

Salamanca – Universidad de Salamanca

academic quality of education activities
The method of learning is different than in Utrecht. All the classes are more like Hoorcolleges and the classes are more focused at remembering things than understanding things.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The support at the university at Salamanca is very chaotic and seems amateuristic from a certain point of view. But in the end with some patience everything turns out fine in the end
transfer of credits
up to know i still don't know how this works.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
The welcome and orientation programme was aswell very chaotic. You should just go to the faculty and inform you there about what is happening when.
accommodation
It was very easy to find an affordable room
leisure & culture
The student life in Salamanca is very good. There are a lot of cheap restaurants and bars. You can also play a lot of sports through the university. I played football every week with other Erasmus students.
suggestions/tips
Try to learn spanish as fast as you can because it will make making friends a lot more easy.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the quality of the university in general was good. Salamanca is a very nice city to live in.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Try to improve your spanish in the first few weeks there, it will pay off in the end.

2018-2019**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Spaanse taal en cultuur
destination city & country	Salamanca, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Salamanca
start date	11 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

end date	23 / 01 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
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PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
	There is a great number of documents needed in process, but deadlines were always announced in a timely manner and in the end it was a very clear and tightly organized matter.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
	Most of my questions were already answered in the available information online and other questions were answered by e-mail almost immediately.
academic preparation	
	No special academic preparation was required
language preparation	
	Spanish courses provided at my home university and a decent knowledge of English
finances	
	It was fairly easy to get around with the Erasmus+ money and my own savings.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
	As the university is specialized in languages, I took the opportunity to study 3 of them (Korean, Euskera and Portuguese). There is the option to do them as 6 credit course (4 hours a week of classes) or 3 credit course (2 hours a week). The other 2 courses I picked were history and literary-related, both belonging to American studies.
academic quality of education activities	
	The ways of teaching among my teachers varied a lot; all of them have challenged and fascinated me in different ways. In comparison with the Utrecht Universiteit I would say don't count on the exact following of the course description (or in some cases don't expect a course description at all), but for me this has never been an issue.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
	Students were allowed and encouraged to ask questions at during classes and there was an office for Erasmus students especially to ask the more general questions
transfer of credits	
	Has not taken place yet

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	
	Lots of activities were organized all semester long, taking place in both the academic point of view and within studentlife
accommodation	

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Accommodation is really easy to find and took most students who decided to look upon arrival a week at the very most.
leisure & culture
A lot of trips were organized outside the city, but there were also a lot of activities (paella night, dancing classes) taking place in Salamanca.
suggestions/tips
Try everything once

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Salamanca is such a safe and warm environment that will make you feel at home immediately. It's beautiful, super alive and has a lot to offer academically and culturally.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Look forward to a wonderful experience; you might not want to go back

2016-2017**Report 1**

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Spanish Language and Culture

destination city & country	Salamanca, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Salamanca
start date	13 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 01 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process
A lot of work, which can be very confusing sometimes. Utrecht really does help you, the USAL takes a lot of time.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Good, I've made a lot of calls and was always helped well. You also receive a lot of emails reminding you what to do, so you can't really forget something.
academic preparation
Didn't do it (and was not necessary).
language preparation
I study Spanish, so didn't have to do a language preparation.
finances

I had a quite big savingsaccount.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The organisation in Spain is... not so good. You receive information very late and sometimes it makes you even more confused. I did think there were enough interesting subjects to choose, but because they have a different timetable-system here, it's very easy to have two courses at the same time... So because of that I did think it was difficult choosing subjects.

academic quality of education activities

The quality is lower then in Holland, yet okay. In comparison with other Spanish universities, it's quite good. If you go abroad for the courses, don't go here, if you really want to go to Spain because of the language, then just do it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Medium. Not very bad, not very good. I did had a really nice tutor, who was a fourth year student.

transfer of credits

Haven't done that already so I don't know.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

From the university: bad, there was one meeting, which was very confusing. From the studentorganizations: everything starts really late, but when it starts, it's really fun! There are loads of activities.

accommodation

Good, you can easily find a nice room under 300 euros. Almost all students live in an apartment with 2/3/4 other students. It's easy to get a room in the city center or close to the campus (15 minute walk from the center).

leisure & culture

Good! Salamanca is not a really big town, but there is enough to do. And there are a lot of interesting cities close by.

suggestions/tips

If you go the first semester, go earlier! That way you can experience the great weather and be there for the 'ferias', a week full of festivities. If you go second semester, don't go home immediately, it's too much fun. And make sure this university offers enough subjects you find interesting (because of the timetable-conflicts).

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes definitely! The university is of less high quality then Utrecht, yet still good enough for one semester. I also really worked on my Spanish, which was the most important to me. The city is perfect to stay half a year, not too big, not too small. It's really a studenttown, and the ambience is really really nice. People are friendly and it's the perfect place to improve your Spanish.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are in doubt, just do it.

Report 2

faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Erasmus

destination city & country	Salamanca, Spain
name university abroad	Universidad de Salamanca
start date	01 / 09 / 2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 02 / 2017 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Different documents had to be filled in, sent and approved by the sending and receiving institute. This was quite some work to get done, but once I was done with everything, my exchange could begin.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

At the international office I could come with any of my questions, and they helped with anything.

academic preparation

Academic preparation wasn't needed, because I knew what I was going to do when I was there, because the guide with all the courses was available really late.

language preparation

I already had a high level in Spanish, because I study Spanish, so that wasn't necessary but getting myself on the plane and go to Salamanca.

finances

Finances were never a problem, because my parents supported me, I had my monthly government fee and ofcourse the Erasmus grant, and when I needed it my parents could send me some money.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

It was a bit of struggle to find out how to apply and how to choose your courses, in the end some Spanish students helped me out, but the university itself didn't do anything to make the situation clear for foreign students.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was really high and exactly how I expected it to be.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't need any support from the university so it's not really applicable.

transfer of credits

Salamanca – Universidad de Salamanca

Transfer of credits was unclear, because a lot changed last minute in how many credits one course was. The transfer to the university in Utrecht went without any problems.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

It was fine, and some information was given, but a lot remained unclear and we had to figure that out ourselves.

accommodation

Accommodation was really easy to find online beforehand, so I arranged my room before going to Salamanca and I had a really nice room in the city centre and our landlords were nice and helpful.

leisure & culture

The culture in Salamanca is amazing and you see it everywhere you look. The student life is huge and within a couple of days you've made friends already. I have only extremely positive things to say about the leisure and culture part.

suggestions/tips

Tip: it's important to arrange your room beforehand so you won't have the stress of looking when you're already there. I've heard people who had to search quite some time, because the best rooms were already hired. A suggestion is to get into some big Whatsapp groups or Facebook groups to see if people want to meet up, that's how I met my first and best friends there.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would recommend it to anyone, it helps you change into a better person and it gives you a broader view of the world. It makes you more social, more responsible and for your language competencies it's perfect, whether it's English, Spanish, French etc.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't let fear of the unknown hold you back from going, everyone will be nervous but in the end everyone returns home with amazing stories.